

Brand Names of Products for Export

6830. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop its own brand names of the products which are exported in large quantities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMANKHURSHEDD): (a) and (b). To popularise various brands of Indian spices and to project "Indianness" and "Quality" the Spice Board has launched a "Brands Promotion Scheme".

As regards raw coffee exports, the Coffee Board had made an attempt to brand the raw coffee exports with the introduction of a new grade 'Mysore Nuggets EB'.

In the case of tea, logo campaigns of Assam and Darjeeling teas are being carried out in several countries.

Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees.

6831. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees who were drawing the basic pay less than Rs. 3,500/- had been granted Dearness Allowance at the rate of 9 percent from July 1, 1991;

(b) whether the said increase in Dearness Allowance is allowed to be drawn by the employees concerned when their pay is raised subsequently above Rs. 3,500/- as a result of promotion or earning of increment;

(c) if not, whether the Government are

considering to allow such employees to draw the Dearness Allowance at the same rate since they were eligible for the same at the time of sanction; and

(d) the steps taken for payment of installment of Dearness Allowance due to the Central Government employees w. e. f. January 1 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) In fact, 9% was the increase in the Dearness Allowance allowed from 1.7.91 in respect of employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/- per month and not the amount of Dearness Allowance as such. Further, orders granting additional instalments of Dearness allowance due from 1.7.91 in respect of employees drawing basic pay above Rs. 3500/- per month and from 1.1.92 in respect of all Central Government employees have since been issued.

(b) to (d). Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Amendment to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

6832. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 debar the claimants to file claims after the expiry of twelve months of the accident;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAHDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The provisions of Sections 158 (6) and 166 (4) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 give sufficient flexibility to the Claims Tribunals to accept claims for compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act. Government are also not aware of any case where in a claim for compensation has been rejected on account of the delay in filing the claim. Government therefore, do not consider it necessary to make any amendment to the existing provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in this regard.

Remittances of Foreign Exchange

6833. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Budget Speech for 1991-92, the Government had declared that the scheme of remittances in foreign exchange would come into immediate effect while it was made applicable from a latter date notified by the Government;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange remittances received in between the period of declaration of the scheme in the Budget and the notification of item implementation;

(c) whether the Government have received representations to bring those remittances within the umbrella of the Remittance of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities & Exemptions) Act, 1991; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Although the

introduction of the Remittances in Foreign Exchange Scheme was announced in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister on 24th July, 1991, the Scheme came into operation with effect from 18th September, 1991 when it was notified under the Remittances of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities and Exemption) Act, 1991. Thus no remittances could be received under the Scheme prior to 18th September, 1991.

(c) and (d). Some requests were received by Government Reserve Bank of India for giving retrospective effect to the said Scheme. However, it was not found possible to entrain such requests in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

NHB'S Assistance for Construction of Houses in U. P.

6834. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank, Bombay has provided refinance facilities to Uttar Pradesh State Agricultural Rural Development Bank for the construction and repair of houses;

(b) if so, the amount of loans provided by the National Housing Bank;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has utilised this amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. National Housing Bank (NHB) has formulated a Scheme for subscription to Special Rural Housing Deben-